

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8930

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USUN NEW YORK 879

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: TRIAL OF SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERS

REF: PRETORIA 3884

1. TRIAL OF THREE AFRICANS CHARGED UNDER SABOTAGE ACT
BEGAN THIS WEEK IN SWAKOPMUND. THE THREE --- JEREMIA
(JERRY) EKANDJO 26, CHAIRMAN OF SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE, JACOB
NGHIDINUA, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, AND MARTIN MVULA KAPAWASA--
ARE ACCUSED OF HAVING ADDRESSED A GATHERING AT KATUTURA
AUGUST 12 (PRETORIA 2836) AT WHICH "THEY INCITED, ENCOURAGED
AND ADVISED THEIR LISTENERS TO COMMIT UNLAWFUL ACTS."
KATUTURA MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE DURING PERIOD OF UNREST
THERE AND IN OWAMBO, FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL BOYCOTT OF
OWAMBO GENERAL ELECTION. REPORTEDLY TRIAL BEING HELD IN
SWAKOPMUND INSTEAD OF WINDHOEK TO AVOID POSSIBILITY OF
EXCITING LARGE OVAMBO POPULATION AT KATUTURA, WINDHOEK'S
BLACK TOWNSHIP.

2. ACCUSED HAVE BEEN STEADFASTLY DEFIANT OF AUTHORITIES.
THEY HAVE TORN UP CHARGE SHEETS, REFUSED GOVERNMENT-
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APPOINTED COUSEL AND UPSET PRESIDING JUDGE BY MAKING

UNSOLICITED STATEMENTS, EKANDJO AND KAPAWASA
CHALLENGED LEGALITY OF SWA SUPREME COURT ON BASIS THAT, AS
KAPAWASA STATED, " THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA HAS NO
RIGHT IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA."

3. PROSECUTION HAS TAPE RECORDINGS OF SPEECHES THE THREE
AND OTHER YOUTH LEAGUERS MADE AUGUST 12 AND SAYS TAPES
WILL SUPPORT CHARGES AGAINST ACCUSED. IF CONVICTED, WHICH
SEEMS LIKELY, THEY FACE PENALTIES RANGING FROM MINIMUM
OF FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT TO MAXIMUM OF DEATH.
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